

# KEHOE'S CORNER

*News from the office of Senator Christine Kehoe*



## Capitol Office

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## Committees

Local Government, Chair  
Budget and Fiscal Review  
Energy, Utilities  
and Communications

Natural Resources & Water  
Transportation & Housing  
Joint Committee on  
Homeland Security and  
Emergency Services, Chair

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## Leading Efforts to Improve San Diego's Response to Domestic Violence

A dramatic report was released recently that stated California is failing when it comes to protecting our citizens from domestic violence. The report, prepared for the Attorney General, is based on an extensive two-year assessment by the *Task Force on Local Criminal Justice Response to Domestic Violence* and highlights four areas that need improvement when it comes to protecting Californians from domestic violence:

1. Obtaining and enforcing restraining orders
2. Prosecuting misdemeanor domestic violence cases
3. Holding batterers accountable
4. Law enforcement's response to health practitioner reports of domestic violence

In response to this report, I recently invited Attorney General Bill Lockyer and other domestic violence and law enforcement experts to participate in a workshop in San Diego to discuss ways to improve how our region responds to domestic violence. The meeting, held at the San Diego Family Justice Center, examined how local criminal justice agencies respond to domestic violence issues, and looked for ways to improve efforts to protect families and prevent family violence in San Diego. The group will reconvene in May 2006.

The Attorney General's report is available online:  
[http://www.safestate.org/documents/dv\\_rpt\\_execsum.pdf](http://www.safestate.org/documents/dv_rpt_execsum.pdf)



**Attorney General Bill Lockyer, Senator Kehoe and Fire Chief Jeff Bowman discuss ways to improve San Diego's response to domestic violence.**

## Legislative update

### California Budget Overview

In January Governor Schwarzenegger released his budget proposal for 2006-07 which details the Governor's proposed state spending for the year. The Governor's Budget bill itemizes recommended expenditures which are introduced in each house of the Legislature.

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*For detailed  
information on the  
state budget go to:*

[www.lao.ca.gov](http://www.lao.ca.gov)

The Senate and Assembly Budget Committees review the Budget Bills and send them to the full Legislature for a vote. The Legislature has until June 15 to pass the budget. When the Budget Bill receives a two-thirds vote of each house, it is passed on to the Governor, who can reduce or eliminate an item of appropriation or sign it as is.

To review a summary of the Governor's budget proposal as prepared by the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee, go to their website at: <http://www.senate.ca.gov/ftp/SEN/COMMITTEE/STANDING/BFR/home/>. The summary includes details on spending for public safety, K-12 Education, childcare, environmental protection, health, veterans affairs, transportation, and more.

There is also a budget summary available from the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO), which provides nonpartisan fiscal and policy advice to the Legislature. To review the budget analysis prepared by the LAO, go to their website at [www.lao.ca.gov](http://www.lao.ca.gov)

## Tax Assistance Available

If you need assistance filing your return, locating a local office, planning your taxes, or resolving a problem with your state taxes, go to the Franchise Tax Board's website at [www.ftb.ca.gov](http://www.ftb.ca.gov).

You can also e-file for free through the Franchise Tax Board's website.

If you need help preparing your taxes, you might qualify for free assistance. The Franchise Tax Board's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) programs provide free tax assistance to seniors and low to moderate taxpayers.

To find out if you qualify and to locate an assistance site near you, go to: <http://www.ftb.ca.gov/individuals/vita/sites.asp>

Here is a partial listing of tax assistance sites in San Diego. Call the below locations for more details.

- **Lemon Grove Senior Center**  
- (619) 337-1425
- **College Avenue Senior Center** - (619) 583-3300
- **Salvation Army** - (619) 239-8027
- **Navajo Community Center** - (619) 442-0829
- **Mira Mesa Senior Center** - (858) 578-7325

## Research Senator Kehoe's Legislation

If you are interested in learning about any of the legislation I am carrying this year, simply go to my website. Here's how:

1. Go to my website at [www.sen.ca.gov/kehoe](http://www.sen.ca.gov/kehoe) to get to my website.
2. Once there, click on the **Legislation** link on the left.
3. Next, you will arrive at the "Senator Kehoe's Legislation" page which includes a complete listing of my bills.
4. Click on any one of the bill links for detailed information on a particular bill.

If you need assistance navigating my website or have questions about a bill, call my office at (619) 645-3133.

To access

Senator Kehoe's  
website,

go to:

[www.sen.ca.gov/kehoe](http://www.sen.ca.gov/kehoe)

## Winning High Praise for Environmental Legislation

I received a score of 100 percent from the California League of Conservation Voters (CLCV) on their 2005 Legislative Report Card. The CLCV's report card is based on Senate and Assembly votes on important environmental bills during the 2005 legislative session.

Last year I voted in favor of important environmental measures, including bills to reduce air pollution, track global warming gas emissions, reduce coastal water pollution, and increase solar energy systems.

Included in the twenty-seven environmental bills tracked by the CLCV were three of my bills:

- **SB 757** would establish a state policy to reduce petroleum dependency and increase the use of alternative fuels.
- **SB 44** would require cities and counties to add an air quality element to their general plans in order to make land use decisions take into account their impacts on air quality.

- **SB 409** would require that a general plan's discussion of water supply and land use planning be more closely linked.

I have the privilege of serving as a member of the Senate Natural Resources & Water Committee, the Subcommittee on Delta Resources, the Select Committee on Coastal Protection and Watershed Conservation, and the Sea Grant Advisory Panel, which identifies state needs that might be met through sea grant projects, including living marine resources, aquaculture, marine minerals and more.

The CLCV's report, designed to assist Californians in evaluating their legislators' support for environmental legislation, can be viewed at <http://www.ecovote.org/>.



**Senator Kehoe has long been an advocate of the environment.**

**The above photo was taken in 2002 on the day her historic environmental legislation to create the San Diego River Conservancy was signed to law.**

## Contact Information

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### Committee Assignments

- *Local Government, Chair*
- *Budget and Fiscal Review*
- *Energy, Utilities and Communications*
- *Natural Resources & Water*
- *Transportation & Housing*
- *Joint Committee on Homeland Security and Emergency Services, Chair*

## UCSD Medical Students visit the Capitol



The San Diego County Medical Society Foundation recently joined me on the Senate Floor at the state's Capitol. Dr. Jim Hay (front row, second from the left), Dr. Robert Hertzka, Immediate Past President of the California Medical Association (far right), and UC San Diego medical students in Sacramento for a SDCMS Foundation sponsored Advanced Legislative Training.

## Brochures & California Constitution Available

Various brochures as well as booklets containing the California Constitution are now available from my office. Brochure topics include:

- California Constitution Booklets
- Medi-Cal Senior Fact Sheet
- Veterans Resource Guide
- Identity Theft
- Prescription Drug Discount Program for Medicare Recipients
- A Citizen's Guide to Lobbying

If you would like a free copy of any of these publications, please contact my office at (619) 645-3133 or [Senator.Kehoe@sen.ca.gov](mailto:Senator.Kehoe@sen.ca.gov).

You may also access these brochures by going to my website at [www.sen.ca.gov/Kehoe](http://www.sen.ca.gov/Kehoe) and clicking on **Brochures**.